



B O R O U G H A N D P O R T O F S A N D W I C H

A N N U A L R E P O R T O F M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

For the Year

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Mayor: Councillor R.M.Satterley

Chairman - Public Health Committee

Alderman L.R.Barlow

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1968

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector: G.T.Rowlands, C.RS.I.

Public Health: Meat Inspector: R.J.Money, D.P.H.I.

Clerk: Miss E.V.Miles.

Shorthand Typist: Mrs. A.M.Rowlands

Town Clerk: Barrie Roberts Esq. Borough Treasurer: E.O.Jordan, B.E.M.

Medical Officer of Health: Malcolm S. Harvey, M.B., ChB.,D.P.H.F.R.S.H.

Deputy M.O.H. Major General James Leslie Gordon, O.B.E. M.R.C.S.
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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THE BOROUGH OF SANDWICH

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Sandwich.

The year on public health matters in Sandwich in 1968 is presented.

The population of the Borough changed little: officially speaking it fell by 10 persons to 4580. Some infilling by new dwellings occurred and the Council added 16 dwellings in the first stage of Hazelwood Meadow, but nevertheless the Borough remained static as a community. The 64 births represented a birth rate of 24 per 1000 persons. Even after adjustment for the age grouping of the population, which led to an adjusted birth rate of 16.5, this fell below the national rate of 16.9. The 48 deaths gave a death rate of 10.5 which is adjusted downwards for our weighting towards the elderly to the low level of 8.4 per 1000 population were the community to have an age distribution equivalent to that of the country as a whole. The national death rate was 11.9 per 1000 population.

The water supply to the Borough remained unchanged and all dwellings were on mains supply. It is a moderately hard water from deep chalk well source, pumped to a closed reservoir after chlorination and distributed by gravity. The contact time in the reservoir is an assurance factor of purity. The total hardness amounts to 305/335 ppm of which all but 45 to 75 ppm is carbonate hardness. There was no evidence of any mineral contamination of the supply. The PH stays steady at 7.1/7.2.

The proposals for improving sewage disposal arrangements were the subject of a public enquiry during the year and received outline approval in October subject to one detailed addition. Improvements in the system of sewers is one part of the scheme which will not only increase the capacity of certain main sewers but will gather in those connections that discharge straight to the River, either as storm overflows or otherwise, and will lead them all to the one point of inward flow. The scheme for disposal is by pumping to Sandwich Bay for discharge through a long sea outfall. At the point of pumping there is a storm overflow to the River below the town but, prior to pumping or storm overflow, there is drum screening and comminution of solids. The scheme is intended to take not only town sewage and that which enters town sewers from the surrounding rural area, but also the effluent from the industrial area at Richborough and Stonar. Disposal through the long sea outfall will take the sewage well beyond the shallows into the deep stream to ensure non return. The level of dilution is well beyond reasonable calculation and the Council has conscientiously observed local concern over possible pollution off the bay as well as over the beach.

Attention was given to the promotion of housing improvements by the declaration of an improvement area; subsequently extended in association with this, an enquiry into all older (pre-war) dwellings within the town walls resulted in 150 replies which showed that the

/the legislation could be applied to 45 dwellings. This area was subsequently extended and disclosed 36 dwellings without standard amenities. These opportunities to encourage improvements were taken and the immediate result was 13 houses improved informally. Progress was a little hindered by a vacancy in the post of additional public health inspector, but by the end of the year was proceeding again.

The refuse tip which is on the Ash Road outside the Borough has never been an easy one to manage and has for too long been a tip and not a means of controlled purposeful disposal. Greater attention was given to the control of weeds, of combustion and of blown litter during the year. Further progress was also made towards the formation of a Joint Refuse Disposal Scheme for the area of Sandwich Borough, Eastry Rural District and the Thanet towns.

The tables and statements that follow give further information on the year nineteen hundred and sixty eight in the Borough and Port of Sandwich.

MALCOLM S. HARVEY

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1968

Mid Year Population: 4580 persons.

Dwellings: 1638: Shops with dwellings 46: Total:- 1684:

Births:	Male	30	
	Female	<u>34</u>	
	Total:	<u>64</u>	(2 illegitimate)

Deaths:	Male	21	
	Female	<u>27</u>	
	Total:	<u>48</u>	

Infant Deaths: NIL

Birth Rate: 14 per 1000 persons. (England & Wales 16.9)

Percentage illegitimate births 3%
(England & Wales 8.4%)

Stillbirths: 1

Infant Deaths:
(under 1 week) NIL

Infant mortality
rate: NIL

Vital Statistics for 1968 (Cont'd)

Perinatal Mortality Rate: 15 per 1000. Live and still births.

Death Rate: 10.5 per 1000 persons.
(England & Wales 11.9)

Rates adjusted by area comparability factors:-

Adjusted Birth Rate: 16.5 per 1000 persons.

Adjusted Death Rate: 8.4 per 1000 persons.

Infectious Diseases:

There was a limited prevalence of Scarlet Fever in the first three months of the year involving pre-school and primary school children. Infective jaundice became notifiable during the second half of the year and two adult cases were notified; one in a young adult, the other in an elderly person. There was a prevalence of cases in the Isle of Thanet at the time and fortunately the virus did not spread to schoolchildren.

There was no evidence of infections arising from sewage disposal to the river. The one case of food poisoning was Salmonellosis from an unidentified source not involving any other member of the household.

Notifiable Disease	Scarlet Fever	Acute Pnuemonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Infective Jaundice
Quarter 1	11	1	-	-	-	-
2	2	-	-	-	1	-
3	-	-	1	3	-	2
4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:1968.	13	1	1	3	1	2
Age:						
Under 1 yr.	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-4	5	-	1	-	-	-
5-9	6	-	-	2	-	-
10-14	2	-	-	-	-	-
15 +	-	1	-	1	1	2

Infectious Diseases (Cont'd)

Tuberculosis.

One new female case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year. In addition, two male cases transferred into the Borough resulting in the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year standing at:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis:	Male	4
	Female	7 T.11
Non-Pulmonary	"	
	Male	1
	Female	2 T.2

Water Supply:

Routine sampling is carried out by the Thanet Water Board and by the Borough at the two points where boats may fill their water tanks. All samples were satisfactory. The nature of the local water supply is described earlier in the report. The situation at the Woodnesborough source remained as described in the last annual report.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The sewers and pumps caused occasional trouble and descaling of lengths of sewer was found necessary. The public enquiry held on the Sewage Scheme for Long Sea Outfall Disposal led to outline approval of the proposals.

Housing:

It was not found necessary to represent any dwellings for clearance or closure during the year, but work on a declared improvement area received attention from the public health inspectorate, rather hindered by staff vacancy for a large part of the year.

Nevertheless, 12 discretionary grants and 2 standard grants were approved, the value of the work in the former amounting to £8398.00.

Caravans:

The holiday caravan site for 100 caravans was inspected periodically and found to be in good order.

Supervision of Food Shops etc:

There were 19 food premises registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955 out of 52 of food premises recorded.

There were no dairies but 7 registered distributors of bottled

Supervision of Food Shops etc. (Cont'd)

/bottled

milk coming into the Borough. Through co-ordination of sampling, to avoid duplication of testing by the Public Health Laboratory, examinations of milks were carried out by other public health departments.

All ice-cream sold in the Borough was made elsewhere and distributed pre-packed.

Complaints of mouldy cut loaves were followed back to the bakers and identified as to inadequate cooling before cutting and wrapping.

Meat Inspection:

The one slaughterhouse in the Borough called on much of the Inspector's time for meat inspection, and during the staff vacancy it was found necessary to arrange relief through a neighbouring local authority's public health inspectorate. Nevertheless, 100% meat inspection was maintained.

RESULT OF MEAT INSPECTION AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Killed	1355	265	290	3244	11,121
All diseases other than TB & Cysticerci. Condemnation:-					
Whole carcasses	1	2	-	10	20
In part or organs	99	122	-	62	753
% of carcasses affected	7.38	46.79	-	2.21	6.95
Tuberculosis only. Condemnation:					
Whole carcasses	-	-	-	-	-
In part	-	-	-	-	223
%	-	-	-	-	2
Cysticerci. Carcasses submitted to refrigeration.	8	-	-	-	-

Factory Inspectorate:

Local Authority Enforcement	On Register	Inspections
Factories: Under sections 1,2, 3,4,6.	1	1
Factories: Under Section 7 (not included above)	1	1
Other premises: Under Section 7 (excluding outworkers)	40	26
Total:-	42	28

Outworkers:

There were 23 outworkers notified, all involved in making fireworks paper casings.

It was not found necessary to serve formal notices on any premises nor to make any reference to the Factory Inspectorate.

Section 47 - National Assistance Act:

It was not found necessary to take any formal action under these powers, but two cases caused apprehension. One was an elderly man living in almshouse accommodation whose problem was solved by additional help in the home and attendance at the Day Hospital. The other was the termination of a long standing problem by natural causes of a retired merchant seaman whose happiness was centred on his boat in which he enjoyed independence as a recluse but at a level of living that, while it did not cause nuisance to others, justified discrete supervision.

Other Matters:

Smoke nuisance arose from the burning of used litter from broiler houses. The problem was solved without formal action by arranging disposal by burial.

Port and Haven:

The port received no foreign going shipping, and coastal shipping was limited to small oil carrying vessels delivering supplies in the Richborough Wharf. The mooring of small pleasure craft in the Port and Haven continued and the supply of clean mains water to such craft was checked.

Mortuary:

The Ramsgate Borough mortuary is used for Sandwich cases.

Steam Disinfection:

This is available through arrangements at Eastry Hospital.

Clinics:

The Kent County Health Department hold a Child Welfare Clinic each Friday afternoon in the Moat Sole clinic with dental sessions morning and afternoon on Mondays and Thursdays.

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